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Hansen gets his kicks playing Hendrix

Randy Hansen's rendition of 'Jimi Hendrix machine gun'

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
of The Gazette

"It's hard to describe how much fun I have doing what I'm doing," says 24-year-old Randy Hansen, who makes his living dressing up and playing like the late, great rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix.

"It's the biggest kick I get out of life," he says.

Hanson, who begins a three-night engagement at Le Pretzel Enchaine tonight, doesn't particularly like the word "clone," which has been used to describe the *Beatlemania* troupe (that appeared locally last month).

"The word is so loosely thrown around these days that nobody really knows what it means. But I don't care what they call me."

Hansen comes from Hendrix's hometown, Seattle and grew up with the Hendrix mystique.

His idol died from a drug overdose nine years ago. These days Hansen is in the middle of a 70-city tour that, according to reviews, reveals him as a remarkably accurate impersonator.

What does Hendrix's father think of him?

"He really liked my show a lot. In fact, we were on an elevator after a performance and I could see the tears running from his eyes. We were just about to step out when he said, 'After you, Jimi.'

"That's something I'll never forget."

Does Hansen feel his career can only reach a dead-end because of its reliance on some-one else's style, a dilemma that has troubled Montreal guitarist Frank Marino (of Mahogany Rush), who gained fame by playing uncannily like Hendrix?

"No, I don't feel trapped as a person. I was speaking to Frank about it and he warned me not to go into it unless it was for good.

"The difference is that Frank writes his own stuff and sounds like Hendrix. When I'm on stage I just try to get as close to Hendrix as I can. I've got his music running through my head all the time."

Hansen, who is white, spends about an hour before each show darkening his face and frizzing his hair like Hendrix.

Asked if fans approach him to ask what Hendrix was 'really like,' he replies: "I really don't have that problem. Backstage I look like just another roadie."

However, Hansen is planning to issue records under his own name and style, which is influenced by the likes of John McLaughlin, Joe Walsh and Todd Rundgren. Does he worry about his 'real' style not being as accepted as his Hendrix routine?

"It's something I'm real interested in finding out. However, if it doesn't work, it'd be alright. A lot of acts go after that golden ring, and if they don't succeed, it seems to tear them apart. I wouldn't want that to happen to me."

Finally, does he feel scared of ending up like Hendrix?

"Everybody's got to die sooner or later. As long as it's a natural death I don't mind."

YOU BE THE CRITIC

The column where readers have their say

Rodriguez hits upon rock 'n' roll problem

Everyone is attacking Mr. Rodriguez for his negative remarks about some concerts. However, if you enjoyed a concert, that does not make it artistically and critically sound. A group that breaths fire and someone who wails "Do You Think I'm Sexy?" cannot be considered artists in the true sense of rock 'n' roll.

I believe Mr. Rodriguez has hit upon one of the problems of rock and roll today. There are not that many good rock 'n' roll groups that perform well. The best groups seldom come to Montreal. Here we see no Neil Youngs, no The Whos, no Rolling Stones and only the occasional Springsteen and Southside Johnny.

Mr. Rodriguez is giving us an objective point of view at a concert where all the fans like the group. It will take a lot to disappoint the fans but, as always, it will take little to disappoint the critic. Mr. Rodriguez refuses to drop below his dignity.

May *The Gazette* print some letters of this viewpoint to show that some of us actually understand Mr. Rodriguez' objectivity.

Demetrois G. Xistris
Town Of Mount Royal.

We're deeply perturbed by those record reviews

Juan Rodriguez' record reviews of Aug. 24 deeply perturbed us. He declared that Ritchie Blackmore is an over-rated guitarist with a fuzzed guitar. He doesn't even own a fuzz. Even funnier is the fact that his peers selected him along with Howe, Page and Santana as being among the four best rock guitarists in the world (*Guitar Player*, Dec. '78)

Rodriguez hit the heights again by proclaiming George Thorgood as the best rock guitarist without a rhythm player. Chuck Berry was performing those licks 20 years ago. Frank Marino performs the same stuff with his teeth.

We feel Rodriguez is misleading your readers with judgments on subjects of which his knowledge is obviously limited. (i.e. guitar players). Montreal now has a pack of 12-year-olds who think that the greatest guitar player is a guy who can undoubtedly perform but whose albums consist of Chuck Berry repeated over and over again *ad nauseum.*

Ken Stamm and Bruce Stamm
Beloeil.

Kiss group is disgusting the way it acts, dresses

I am surprised to see that *The Gazette* has yet to publish a letter that defends Juan Rodriguez. After all, the purpose of any editorial page is to present opposite views on the same issue to stimulate the readers' perception of that issue.

I agree with Juan Rodriguez that the rock group Kiss is "a blatantly exploitative act." I think they are disgusting by the way they act and dress and a dishonor to the word "entertainment."

I am sure that 10 years ago, their act would have been banned — and it is still a great idea.

Mrs. E. Dussault
Roxboro.

I'm shocked by criticism of Chorus Line musical

In my opinion, Mr. Bruce Bailey has a lot to learn about reviewing theatre. When a play like *A Chorus Line* finally comes to Montreal or Ottawa, the audiences are very excited about the fact that we can finally see some "pizazz" and professionalism.

After seeing the play a couple of times, I was shocked at the criticism that got into your newspaper and I was very insulted when I was called a "sucker" for going to see this wonderful play.

There must be something wrong somewhere, because the play has been open on Broadway for four years, playing to standing room only and the album had record sales. Obviously, this so-called critic has no idea about the life of an actor or else he wouldn't have said what he did about them. ("self-indulgent, exhibitionistic, ego-maniacs.")

The purpose of this play was not to describe dancers as the above but rather as entities that must live from hand to mouth but who have more feelings than the ordinary human being because of their profession.

Being an acting student, I can identify with several characters in the play and I have never seen anybody protray my problems so realistically as they did.

I sincerely hope audiences go to see it and don't pay attention to Mr. Bailey's power-hungry critique.

Robert Isaac
St. Laurent.

Was Maureen Peterson at the same concert?

I am just reading an article produced by Maureen Peterson about last night's Pops Concert by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra at the Maurice Richard Arena.

I was at this event, but I can't believe that the author of this article in *The Gazette* was there. What is said about the orchestra and its conductor is not exact. They were not bad, but surely missed a couple of hours of last-minute rehearsal, to say the least!

Hurteau absolutely flopped the first piece and the 4,000 listeners couldn't hide their displeasure energy she put into her presentation, did very well.

Now, let's talk about Brunot Laplante: How could Maureen Peterson not say more about his presentation? He sang beautifully and the listeners showed him an evident delight.

The public needs correct information. Stop accepting this kind of unfair and false talk: it badly spoils the quality of *The Gazette.*

Denyse Des Marchais
Montreal.

The Gazette welcomes your letters on all aspects of the world of entertainment — and any comments on our critics. Send them to: *You Be The Critic, Entertainments Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal.*

WHAT'S ON WEEKEND

THEATRE

Balconville, directed by Guy Sprung at The Centaur Theatre, 453 St. Francois Xavier St. in Old Montreal. Continuing until Sept. 30th. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m. 288-1229.

Le Tarot, tonight and Sun., starring the Gremar-Fariang company, at The Versailles Room of The Windsor Hotel, Peel St. Dinner, 7:30 p.m., show, 8 p.m. This reprise of the company's original musical revue, continues until Sept. 16. Admission, $20, includes a full-course meal. $5, for show only. For tickets and reservations call, 866-9611 or 849-0566.

Harold et Maude at Theatre du Rideau Vert, 4664 St. Denis St. Continuing until Sept. 29th. Tonight, 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m. 844-1793.

La Collection de Madame Suzanne at Cafe de la Place, continues until Oct. 20. Tonight and tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets, $5.50. 842-2141, ext. 365.

P. S.: Your Cat is Dead at McGill University, Morrice Hall across from 3480 McTavish St. A superlative performance by The Summer Company of James Kirkwood's hilarious (and casually lewd) script. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, $2 and $3. Reservations necessary. 392-4637.

Cold Storage at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd. Ronald Ribman's profound and amusing script, directed by Sean Mulcahy. Tickets available at the box office. Tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m., continuing until Sept. 16. 739-7944.

La Poudriere, Ile Ste. Helene. Alan Ayckbourn's caustic comedy *Absent Friends,* continues until Sept. 29. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 526-0821.

OUT OF TOWN

A Chorus Line at Ottawa's National Arts Centre. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow and Sun., 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (613) 237-4400.

CLUBS

Gringos, 1471 Crescent St., downstairs. **Sun.:** Daphne Lindmar, starting at 9 p.m. 288-2651.

Friar's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Short Notice. **Sun.:** Nancy Harris Band. Showtime: 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. 849-9086.

The Maples, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight through Sun.:** Wednesday. 694-2479.

Le Pretzel Enchaine, 2112 Clark St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Randy Hansen's Machine Gun, tickets, $6.50. 286-9075.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Frost Bite. 931-2575.

Stitches, 1470 Crescent St. **Sun.:** Comedy After Death. Showtimes: 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission $3. For auditions, phone 842-3713.

L'Imprevu, 446 Place Jacques Cartier in Old Montreal. **Tonight through Sun.:** Pierre Landry. 878-9397.

Lancer Pub, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Carl Peterson, Andy Vine and Duke Walker. First set at 9 p.m. 866-6492.

Yellow Door, 3625 Alymer St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Danny Greenspoon. Doors open at 8 p.m. 392-4947.

Rising Sun, 286 St. Catherine St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Dutch Mason Blues Band. 861-0657.

St. James Pub, 1197 University St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Richard Duffy. 861-4662.

The Hunter's Horn, 1214 Peel St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Clahanes. **Tonight through Sun.:** Peter Suttie, upstairs in The Parlour. 861-8022.

L'Air du Temps, 191 St. Paul St. in Old Montreal. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Geoff Lapp. **Sun.:** Joanne des Forges. Admission, $2. 842-2003.

Salle Bonaventure, Queen Elizabeth Hotel. City Lights Revue featuring Roxanna Ward. Shows at 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., tonight; 9:30 p.m. and midnight, tomorrow night. 861-3511.

Cock 'n Bull Pub, 1944 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Bowser and Blue. **Sun.:** Al Peter's Dixieland Band, 9 p.m. 933-4556.

The Piccadilly, Sheraton Mount Royal Hotel, Peel St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Dancing with The Royals. 842-7777.

Broadway Live, 1459 St. Alexander St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Something Extra. 843-3033.

FRIDAY

DANCE

The National Ballet of Canada performs *Swan Lake* at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, $7 to $15. 487-1232.

FILM

The World Film Festival at the Parisien Cinema on St. Catherine St. 879-4349 or 879-7285.

UNICEF—Quebec presents a series of free films, noon to 3 p.m., in the Mini-Theatre, La Viaduc, Place Bonaventure. 866-8013.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Norma Rae, 7; Pretty Baby, 7:15; The China Syndrome, 9:15; The Groove Tube, 9:45; The Rocky Horror Picture Show, midnight.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Les Troyennes, 6:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) La Strategie de l'Araignes, 7:30, 9:30; Les Insectes de feu, 7, 9, 11.

Seville (932-1139) Watership Down, 7:30; The In-Laws, 9:30; A Clockwork Orange, midnight.

SATURDAY

DANCE

The National Ballet of Canada performs *Swan Lake* at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, $7 to $15, on sale at the PdA box office. 487-1232.

LECTURE

The Jewish Public Library, 5151 Cote St. Catherine Rd. Chaim Spilberg will lecture on *Chaim Greenberg - His Life and Times,* in Yiddish at 8:30 p.m. 735-6535.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Death In Venice, 7; Aimal House, 7:15; The China Syndrome, 9:15; Last Tango In Paris, 9:45; Psycho, midnight.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Lawrence d'Arabie, 5:30.

Cinemutheque Quebecois (844-8734) Harlan County, U.S.A, 7:30; America at the Movies, 9:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Une Histoire Simple, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45; Frankenstein Junior, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

Outremont (277-4145) Watership Down, 7; Murder By Decree, 9:30.

Cinema Parallele (843-4725) Les Servantes du bon dieu, 7:30, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) The In-Laws, 7:30; Blazing Saddles, 9:30; Gimme Shelter, midnight.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Carillonneurs — Once a month, since May, carillonneurs from Canada, the United States and Europe, were invited to give a recital on the Paccard carillon of St. Joseph's Oratory. For the final recital, Milford Myhre from Florida will perform, 2 p.m. at 3800 Queen Mary Rd. 733-8211.

The Little Singers of Mount Royal under the direction of Gilbert Patenaude, presents *Missa Laude Sion* and offertory by Palestrina, 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Oratory. Also, Raymond Daveluy, organist will perform at 3:30 p.m. in the Oratory. 733-8211.

DANCE

The National Ballet of Canada performs *Les Sylphides, Washington Square* and *Elite Syncopations* at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, $7 to $15, on sale at the PdA box office. 487-1232.

ETCETERA

25th Annual Hunter Trails of The Lake of Two Mountains Hunt at the Harwood Farm, Harwood Rd., Hudson. Approximately 100 horses will participate in fourteen classes, the first class will start 8:30 a.m. Exit 22 off the Trans-Canada Highway.

Walking Tours of the Waterfront — The bilingual one-hour tour will begin at 2:30 p.m., main entrance of Bonsecours Market and end at Place d'Youville. 283-4651.

Walking Tour with Save Montreal begins at 2:30 p.m. in front of Gesu Church on Bleury St. south of St. Catherine St. and will cover the Chinatown area.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) The China Syndrome, 7; Murder by Decree, 7:15; Richard Pryor Live In Concert, 9:15; The Seduction of Mimi, 9:45.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Lawrence d'Arabie, 5:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Une Histoire Simple, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45; Elisa Mon Amour, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30.

Outremont (277-4145) Nos Plus Belles Annees, 7; Pain et Chocolat, 9:30.

Cinema Parallele (843-4725) Les Servantes du bon dieu, 3.

Seville (932-1133) A Little Romance, 5:15; The In-Laws, 7:30; The Groove Tube, 9:30.

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